

**For Immediate Release
July 30, 2010**

Franklinton Neighborhood Leaders Celebrate Main Street Bridge Opening

Franklinton neighborhood leaders joined Mayor Michael B. Coleman, City Council President Pro-Tem Hearcel F. Craig and Ohio Department of Transportation Director Jolene M. Molitoris to officially open the new Main Street bridge today. The project reconnects Franklinton with the Downtown following demolition of the old Main Street bridge in 2007.

“The new Main Street Bridge reconnects Franklinton with Downtown, transporting residents in their cars, on their bikes, or on foot,” said Mayor Coleman. “This is also a catalyst for residential and economic development for Franklinton and for the RiverSouth area.”

The new bridge, which features an inclined arch on the bridge’s north side, meets the needs of motorists, pedestrians and bicyclists. An 18-foot, 7-inch wide multi-use path on the bridge’s north side will accommodate pedestrians and cyclists who bike to and from work or ride recreationally. Cyclists, by law, also share the bridge’s roadway with automobiles. The project also includes the resurfacing and conversion of West Rich Street from one-way to two-way traffic between the west end of the bridge to McDowell Street.

“I am so excited about the Main Street Bridge being finished. This is wonderful news,” said Franklinton Area Commission Chair Carol Stewart. “The bridge being two way opens our neighborhood back up to downtown the way it was in the past.”

“This is a great day for Franklinton,” said Franklinton Development Association Executive Director Jim Sweeney. “This bridge is obviously an extremely important link between our community and downtown. Perhaps more importantly it’s a symbol of the investment yet to come.”

The bridge’s roadway and multi-use path also will be used for festivals. The Main Street bridge project also includes improvements to a portion of West Bank Park on the west end of the bridge. West Bank Park improvements will be finished with the completion of the Rich Street bridge in August of 2011. Both bridge projects are made possible through federal, state and local partnerships.

“The Main Street Bridge is one of those signature projects that help define a city,” said Councilmember Hearcel F. Craig, chair of the Public Service and Transportation Committee. “This bridge serves as a link between two neighborhoods in the midst of awesome transformation.”

The Main Street bridge project was funded through a federal, state and City of Columbus partnership. ODOT managed the project’s construction.

-more-

“Across Ohio - in every county of our state and in every major mode of travel and shipping - ODOT is making historic investments in our transportation system,” said ODOT Director Jolene M. Molitoris. “The Main Street Bridge in Columbus does more than connect two sides of a river. This project will serve as a magnet for new jobs and economic growth in one of our state’s vital urban centers.”

“The Main Street bridge encompasses all elements of a complete street,” said Chester R. Jourdan, Jr., MORPC Executive Director. “Traditionally river crossings have proven to be barriers to bicyclists and pedestrians. This bridge will allow all users to safely cross the Scioto River.”

Main Street Bridge Facts

- ◆ In addition to motorists, the Main Street Bridge welcomes pedestrians and bicyclists
- ◆ The bridge features a multi-use path on its north side:
 - The multi-use path is open to pedestrians and bicyclists; bicyclists by law also share the road deck of the bridge with automobiles
 - The multi-use path is 18 feet, 7 inches wide and is elevated to four feet above the road deck at the bridge’s center point
- ◆ A five-foot wide sidewalk is on the south side of the bridge
- ◆ The Main Street bridge project includes construction of portion of West Bank Park on the west side of the Scioto River. Remaining West Bank Park improvements will be done with the completion of the Rich Street Bridge in August 2011. Park improvements include:
 - New bike paths
 - New street lighting and
 - New landscaping
 - Related to West Bank Park improvements, Washington Boulevard between Rich and Town streets will be resurfaced and new sidewalks, curbs and street lighting will be added
- ◆ Bridge basic information:
 - Length: 674.54 feet
 - Width of roadway: 39 feet
 - Lanes:
 - Initially, as the RiverSouth Project on the east side of the Scioto River is underway, the Main Street Bridge will feature one eastbound lane
 - The bridge is scheduled to open to two-way traffic in June of 2011, one lane westbound and two lanes eastbound
 - The bridge’s unique arch on the bridge’s north side at its peak stands 65.5 feet above the bridge’s road deck

-more-

- ◆ The Main Street bridge project includes roadway improvements on the west and east sides of the bridge:
 - West Rich Street has been resurfaced between the bridge's west end and McDowell Street.
 - West Rich Street has been converted from one-way to two-way traffic between the west end of the bridge and McDowell Street. This two-way conversion includes new sidewalks and traffic calming islands to increase pedestrian safety
 - On the eastside of the bridge, the roadway was completely rebuilt, including new sidewalks on the south side of West Main Street, between the bridge and Civic Center Street

- ◆ Funding sources: Breakdown by agency
 - ODOT: \$19,860,209.07 (includes \$4,660,209.07 in estimated inspection cost)
 - Federal Earmarks: \$8,590,000.00
 - Ohio Public Works Commission: \$5,212,343.00
 - MORPC: \$7,387,523.00
 - City of Columbus (Construction – SIB Loan): \$14,991,134.00
 - City of Columbus (Design): \$8,314,525.00
 - Total Funding (budgeted, but not spent): \$64,355,734.07

- ◆ Costs for project: Breakdown by category
 - Construction of Bridge, and West Bank Park: \$47,117,222.46 (budgeted)
 - *As of July 30, 2010, only \$43,562,269 has been spent*
 - Design Cost (redesign, environmental and construction services): \$8,314,525.00
 - Inspection Cost (estimated at 10%): \$4,711,722.25
 - Total Project Cost: \$60,143,469.71